



## Second Annual Art Shabbaton

April 19, 20 and 21



### Be Holy for I am Holy: Expressions From Within

On April 19, 20 and 21, CSZ will be filled with special prayer services and workshops designed to allow you to express your Jewish spirituality and divine inspiration. No artistic ability is required to enhance your sense of Jewish identity through midrash, music and a myriad of other creative outlets. From a joyful Kabbalat Shabbat to creative workshops to a festive oneg to a revitalizing Havdalah service, the entire weekend will be filled with learning and insight from fellow CSZ members as they share their special artistic talents and gifts with the entire community. If you register before April 12, the cost for the entire weekend is \$18 for CSZ members and \$25 for non-members.

Special FREE children's programming and babysitting will be available.

The Art Shabbaton is a great way to introduce your friends to the warmth of CSZ and the excitement of a progressive synagogue. Why not invite a friend to join you for the weekend?

PLEASE REFER TO THE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES.

And it is not too late to be a sponsor for the event. For a donation of \$36 you can underwrite one of the fabulous workshops or the costs of making the weekend activities free for kids. You can use the enclosed registration form for the donation or mail a check separately to the synagogue.

For additional information, contact Melanie Kushnir, Interim Program Director (415/861-6932, [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).

**PRE-REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED.**

**COST OF REGISTRATION INCREASES  
BY \$5 ON APRIL 12.**

**SPACE IS LIMITED.**

**MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM NOW.**

## Come Join Our Beit Midrash —

Beit Midrash is a monthly study group at Sha'ar Zahav whose aim is to support CSZ members in developing our own Jewish spiritual practice. Each meeting, we learn about traditional tools and techniques that we can use in chevrotah study (study with a partner) or to further our own personal relationship with God and Judaism. In March we learned how to lay tefillin. On April 1 at 7 pm, we'll be studying Jewish meditation practice. We'll also meet on May 6. Because we learn about a new topic each month, please feel welcome to join us at any point. Our study sessions also support and encourage new and ongoing chevrotah partnerships. You are welcome to come alone or with a study partner. If you are interested in participating in Beit Midrash, please contact Melanie Kushnir in the CSZ programming office (415/861-6932, [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)) or just come to our next meeting.

## Late-Night Chaos? Not at CSZ!

by Danny Kodmur

As I write, the world of television is in a tizzy. Letterman, Koppel, Maher, none of them knows where they'll be in the future. But you can have your late-night plans set if you join CSZ for our 4th Annual Shavuot Study Spectacular on Thursday night, May 16.

Have a subject you'd like to teach? Or would you rather help us explore Judaism through song, movement, dance, food? We need teachers, helpers, food coordinators and moral support to stay awake. Past years have seen us go all night.....will we be equally daring this year? Come find out!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Danny Kodmur ([dkodmur@earthlink.net](mailto:dkodmur@earthlink.net)) or leave a message with the office. A good time will be had by all, and who knows, maybe even blintzes....

## Congregational Advance

May 31-June 2

Interested in learning about CSZ's mission, values and vision? Want to be part of the congregation's long-range planning process? Have some ideas? All CSZ members are invited to be part of the First Annual Congregational Advance to be held the weekend of May 31 through June 2. Join us for a special Kabbalat Shabbat service in honor of our 25th anniversary on May 31. Shabbat morning,

*continued on page 10*



## From the Rabbi



Camille Angel

I get a Jewish thrill walking into CSZ on almost any given night of the week when I witness the vibrancy of Jewish activity under our roof. It seems like in the last few weeks,

the shul has especially come to life with the opening of our Beit Midrash. This chevrotah style learning opportunity (studying in pairs) has attracted a diverse group of members, all of whom have come to deepen their Jewish learning and spirituality. All the pairs in the Beit Midrash will meet as a group once a month, in the evening and additionally, each pair will meet to study on a weekly basis, ideally.



I am so appreciative of Michael Chertok, Laura Lowe and Louisa Stone for coordinating this initiative.

My hope is that everyone will have someone to study with on a regular basis, to support each other in living a meaningful Jewish life.

Having participated in the March Beit Midrash, I am still feeling a sense of exuberance in having watched twenty or so students learn to leign tefillin.

What a remarkable and truly gay scene. Seeing our members adorned in leather, helping each other adjust the straps in order to experiment with this ancient ritual. Perhaps for some a one-time experiment and for others a potentially new way to draw closer to the Divine.

For me this kind of experiential learning represents an essential component

of Reform Judaism. It is the commitment to learn from the tradition and determine each for him or her self whether practice is compelling in this day in age. I am blessed to be a part of this dynamic community, where the opportunities to become

engaged are innumerable. I hope you'll join in the fun. A chevrotah partner is waiting for you!

## The Art of Jewish Giving

by Brian Jersky, for the Dues Committee

In a recent Torah portion, Terumah (giving) we were given a long list of things that God wants to be donated by the community for the construction of the Temple. Very specific directions are laid down for what kinds of objects are to be donated.

It is interesting to note the big difference between these kinds of gifts (terumah) and the more usual form of charity in the Torah (tzedakah). Terumah refers to voluntary giving for which individuals can find space in their hearts. Tzedakah refers to the duty to give to your community, and it is explicitly understood to be not voluntary. In the Torah portion, we read that every individual is obliged to give a certain minimum amount of money to the Temple as tzedakah, whereas additional gifts to the Temple are described as terumah.

The Dues Committee of CSZ tries to duplicate this ancient Jewish division. Our annual dues, which are set as a varying fraction of an individual or family's income, are seen as tzedakah. Additional gifts to the community, over and above this minimum, are celebrated as terumah.

It may be asked why this division arose in the first place and why we duplicate it as part of our minhag at CSZ. The sages point out that tzedakah is both an obligation and a joy, so that everyone in the community should partici

*continued on page 14*

## Build Community With Castro Homeless People

Wednesday, April 10

The CSZ Social Action Committee is teaming up with Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro to host meals for homeless people in the neighborhood. The focus of the meals is getting to know each other and building community, not just serving food. Come join us on the second Wednesday of each month between 4:30 and 8 (including setup and cleanup times). Feel free to arrive late or leave early. The meal is served in Ellard Hall (downstairs from the worship space at Most Holy Redeemer, 100 Diamond Street at 18th). For more information, contact Craig Persiko (415/701-0733, [craig@redcottage.com](mailto:craig@redcottage.com))

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund by Dev Felder Noily

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund consists of funds made available solely to the rabbi for use at her discretion. Among typical uses of these funds are charitable donations, loans or grants to congregational members, or expenditures for non-budgeted items for the rabbi's use in her work.

This fund serves a vital purpose, as it permits the rabbi some measure of financial freedom in her rabbinic duties without accountability to the Va'ad or congregation. I have personally experienced the beneficence of this fund, as a grant from the rabbi enabled me to attend a UAHC-sponsored conference, which I would have been unable to attend without the funds provided.

Lifecycle events are traditionally associated with contributions, and the demands always exceed the resources of this fund. It would be a mitzvah to make a donation to the fund in honor of Rabbi Angel, or for any other simcha or memory you wish to honor. Please consider the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for your next donation to CSZ.



## Talk To Me



Lisa Katz

Although this is the April newsletter, I am writing this article at the end of February, beginning of March. I am still thinking about the recent death of our member, Eli Weinstein. Eli was a wonderful man and a dedicated member of our Sha'ar Zahav community. Membership in this synagogue was extremely important to him, and he took his responsibility as a member quite seriously. Eli volunteered on the Membership Committee, the Newsletter Committee, Bikkur Cholim Committee and Adult Education Committee, as well as many holiday programs. He would always be present for congregational meetings, whether or not there was a "hot" topic on the agenda.

In fact, I am told, that Eli, not once but twice, brought a proposal to the Va'ad that a certain number of volunteer hours in the synagogue should be a requirement of membership. That proposal never passed. And I am not suggesting that mandatory volunteer service is the direction that we should be heading. But I believe that Eli's life was greatly enriched by his participation in Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. And there is no question that our congregation was greatly enriched by Eli's participation, as it is enriched by the tremendous number of volunteer hours that so many of you put into our congregation.

It really is a two way street. Putting time into CSZ will both benefit the synagogue and it will benefit you.

I believe that many people would like to become more active and do not know how to do so. The answer is to talk to me, talk to the other members of the Va'ad, our staff, anyone who you know who is involved with CSZ.

I am particularly interested in recruiting new members to our 25th Anniversary Planning Committee. Call the

*continued on page 10*

## Israel Action Briefs

**Israel Recognizes Reform Conversions!** On February 20, the Israeli Supreme Court granted official recognition to Jews who convert to Judaism under the auspices of the Reform and Conservative Movements. This ruling will have a profound impact on hundreds of thousands of Israelis, including many immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and it represents a long and hard-fought victory for ARZA/World Union. To learn more, and to join the continuing struggle for religious pluralism in Israel, visit [www.rj.org/arzawuna](http://www.rj.org/arzawuna). Please consider membership in ARZA/World Union (dues are \$36, payable via the website), and remember to vote for the ARZA/World Union slate in the upcoming WZO elections.

**Ultra-Orthodox Confront LGBT Activists:** In early February, a group of ultra-Orthodox protesters broke into a meeting of the Aguda (Israel's umbrella LGBT rights organization) in Hadera, a small town far from the center of LGBT life in Israel, and started a physical altercation. In response, many of the foremost opinion leaders in the Israeli media, as well as the leadership of the Reform and Conservative Movements, spoke out strongly in defense of the Aguda and its activities, reports Etai Pinkas, the organization's president, who met with CSZ members on February 27.

**Sharon Meets LGBT Leaders:** In another historic first, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had an official meeting with eight LGBT activists, including a prominent transgender business leader. The activists educated Sharon about the community's many issues, and left with some optimism that his administration would reinstate the funding that it had previously cut off, according to Pinkas.

**Palestinian and Israeli LGBTs Promote Co-Existence:** Despite a year and a half of violent conflict in the Middle East, the Aguda is moving ahead with its unique educational project to prepare Palestinian and Israeli

LGBTs for a present and future life together, reports Pinkas. The Aguda also supports Palestinian LGBTs who have been estranged from their families and discriminated against by the Palestinian establishment. In some cases, LGBT Palestinians have literally been hunted down and killed by family members and official forces of the Palestinian Authority.

**The Aguda Needs Our Help!** The demand for LGBT supportive services and programs in Israel has risen dramatically in the last few years, but funding remains a constant struggle. To lend your support, please send your tax-deductible contributions, payable to "American Friends of the Aguda," P.O. Box 21855, Washington, D.C. 20009-1855.

**Controversial Israeli Playwright to Speak:** On Sunday, April 7, at 7 pm, Motti Lerner, a well-known playwright and film director who boldly takes on core issues of Israeli identity, will speak at CSZ on writing plays and films inspired by current and historic events. Mr. Lerner is the final speaker in the New Israeli Voices lecture series, co-sponsored by CSZ, the JCF's Israel Center and the JCC.

**Israeli Consul-General Comes to CSZ:** CSZ will host Israeli Consul-General Yossi Amrani for a discussion with CSZ members on Thursday, April 18, at 7 pm. Topics will include the relationship between Israel's LGBT movement and the overall human rights picture in Israel and the Middle East, and the place of the Reform Movement in Israel and how we can become involved. All are welcome!

**CSZ Goes to Israel:** Join CSZers for a trip to Israel from June 27 - July 7, 2002, to attend both Israel Pride and the World Conference of LGBT Jewish Organizations. Tour the country, meet important human rights leaders and learn about LGBT activism in Israel. For further information, please visit [www.kenes.com/israelpride/](http://www.kenes.com/israelpride/), or contact Michael Sarid (415/643-4390, [MSarid@earthlink.net](mailto:MSarid@earthlink.net)).



**CSZ is turning 25!**  
**Special Anniversary service**  
**May 31.**  
**Mark your calendars and**  
**be sure not to miss it.**

### Members' Yahrzeits

- 1 Adam Harris
- 2 Ron Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Serman
- 23 Michael Randall
- 24 Norma Faini-Pick



**HILLS OF ETERNITY MEMORIAL PARK**  
*Serving families of the Jewish faith since 1851*

Designated section for members of  
 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

For information please call  
 Stephen E. Weiner  
 Director of Sales  
 650/756-3633

## Torah Trope Classes at CSZ

This spring, CSZ offers you the opportunity to learn how to chant Torah. This introductory Torah trope class will be taught by CSZ's own Ron Edelman and will begin on Monday, April 15. There will be a total of six weekly sessions, running through May 20. Cost is \$36 for CSZ members, \$72 for non-members. Class size is limited. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir in the CSZ programming office (415/861-6932 ext. 305, [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).

## Pre-Shabbat Welcome Dinner

**Friday, April 19, 6:15 at CSZ**  
**or 6:30 at Bitterroot**  
**3122 16th St between Valencia and Guerrero**

*"Small cheer and great welcome make  
 for a merry feast" - Shakespeare*



So, nu, "What does an English bard know from Yiddishkeit (the distinctly Jewish feeling of warmth and welcome)?"

Come join the Keshet (Connection) and Membership committees for a friendly, haimish (having the friendly rapport that exists inside a happy home) pre-Shabbat meal as we kick off the fabulous Art Shabbaton Weekend. We'll kibbitz. We'll have eppis tsu essen (a little something to eat).

This informal "pay-your-own-way" gathering is for prospective members, new members and seasoned members to get to know each other in a more informal and relaxed setting. As in our minhag (custom), we gather at CSZ at 6:15 pm and then head to the restaurant at 6:30 pm.

Please RSVP to Dara Wallsten (415/584-2706, [darahe@aol.com](mailto:darahe@aol.com)), Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, [mhwernick@aol.com](mailto:mhwernick@aol.com)) or the office (415/861-6932, [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org)). We look forward to having you join us.

## CSZ Purim Celebration





*The Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email:office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

- *Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Karen Schiller
- *Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Brian Jersky, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis, Kerri Schiff
- *Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- *Design and Layout:* Kerri Schiff
- *Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics
- *Distribution:* Mail It Right

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

April 2002, Volume 25, Issue 8.



## A Thank You From NUJLS *by Eric Saddik, NUJLS Executive Director*

On behalf of NUJLS, the National Union of Jewish LGBT Students, I would like to thank you for your outstanding help in making this year's National Leadership Conference in San Francisco a tremendous success.

Generous efforts by individual Sha'ar Zahav members to help in such key ways as assisting with organizing, hosting participants and serving as guest speakers, made our nearly 100 participants from local, state, national and international areas feel welcome during their visit to San Francisco.

Also, we thank you, the congregation in its entirety, for your open arms extended to us during a beautiful Shabbat service. Time and time again, Sha'ar Zahav was mentioned by conference participants, often with choked-up emotion, as one of the most cherished parts of our long weekend.

This year's conference theme was "Combining Our Jewish and LGBT Identities." Sha'ar Zahav truly made a wonderful lasting impression on us, showing us how we can do just that. Thank you for such a warm and inspiring experience that will stay with us and guide us throughout our lives.

## Join the National Day of Silence Help Create Safe Schools

On April 10, the entire nation will unite in support of the National Day of Silence. The Day of Silence is a day on which those people who support creating safe schools for LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex) people take a nine-hour vow of silence to recognize and protest the harassment, prejudice and discrimination - in effect, the silencing - that LGBTQI people face. But the Day of Silence is about more than being silent for a day. It's about raising awareness around LGBTQI issues, making a visible personal commitment to justice and equality and, potentially, organizing a larger campaign to promote respect in your school and community. If you would like to know more about the Day of Silence, go to the website: [www.dayofsilence.org](http://www.dayofsilence.org) or call CSZ member Ruby Cymrot-Wu (415/621-5350). Ending the silence caused by harassment, prejudice and discrimination is the first step in fighting these injustices. What are you going to do to end the silence?

## Kadimah Takes First Foray Into Formal Transgender Education

What better opportunity than Purim, the holiday that invites us to deconstruct opposites, to introduce kids to the transgender experience. In the weeks leading up to Purim, Kadimah offered two transgender workshops, one for parents and one for students. On February 2, parents were introduced to transgender terminology, transgender experiences and strategies for talking with your kids about transgender concepts and conundrums by CSZ members Ali Cannon and AJ Turpen, together with Margaret Rothman, Jewish Family and Children's Services LGBT Outreach Advocate. A week

later, students participated in a Trans-Purim experience facilitated by Ali Cannon. Drawing on the custom of cross-dressing for Purim, students were invited to dress in opposite-gender costumes and to participate in a Purimschpiel exploring themes of hidden identity and revelation. Following their theatrical moment, the children were engaged in a discussion defining transgender and exploring their reactions to challenging gender norms. This program marks the first time that Kadimah has offered a school-wide transgender program. Further curriculum development will follow.





# Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



## Come to the ART SHABBATON

April 19-21

Celebrate and create authentic Jewish art with your children at the Art Shabbaton. Wonderful creative opportunities await art enthusiasts of all ages. Childcare is available. See the insert for details. Contact Melanie Kushnir with questions ([mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org), 415/861-6932 x 305).

## Tot Shabbat

Saturday, April 27, 10:30 am

Bring your tots ages 2-5 to celebrate Shabbat with Family Education Specialist Jeni Markowitz. Enjoy an age-appropriate mini-service complete with singing, finger plays and story telling and make wonderful Jewish puppets.

**Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education**  
(415/861-6932 x 302 or [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org))  
for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

## Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Zemirot:

Friday, April 5, 6 pm

Join us for Family Kabbalat Shabbat with Family Education Specialist Jeni Markowitz and Educator Lom Friedman. We will feast and welcome Shabbat in prayer and marvelous singing. Expand your repertoire of great Jewish music. Children of all ages are welcome. Reservations are necessary. Cost for members is \$3 for children, \$5 for adults; for non-members \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. Please RSVP by April 3.

## Looking for Babies

Want to gather with other parents of wee ones? The Education Office wants to hear from you. Tell us if you're interested in an informal monthly gathering with other parents of kids up to age two, ideas you have for meetings and whether you would like to help organize the effort. Please contact Sue Bojdak (415/861-6932 x 302, [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)) to express your interest and share your thoughts.

## Parent Education Series:

### Family Pioneers: Defining New Roles in LGBT Families

Sunday, April 14, 10:30 am - noon

What does it mean to be your child's other mother? Who is the role model for dad's partner in the lesbian-gay co-parenting family? How does a donor dad develop a relationship with his child who is also not his child? As the LGBT community constructs new models of family, individual moms and dads and uncles and not quite grandparents find themselves unwitting pioneers into uncharted territory, searching for guidance about how to live without role models. Join us in conversation with Randie Ben Canan, co-director of Adoption Connection, and Karen Erlichman, therapist at the LGBT Outreach Project of JFCS. We will share our experiences, questions and challenges and become role models for each other. The program is co-sponsored with Jewish Family and Children's Services. Cost is \$10 per family. Childcare is provided. RSVP for childcare by Wednesday, April 10.

## CSZ Purim Celebration





## Yom HaShoah

### (Remembrance Day)

by Michael Sarid for the Ritual Committee

Six million Jews. Adults and children, Hassidic and assimilated, shtetl synagogues and prominent urban centers of Jewish learning. A language, a way of life and a thriving culture in Europe that took over 1,500 years to take root and develop. All of it wiped out in a few short years by an evil Reich with a hateful ideology, in the heart of what was thought at the time to be the "civilized" world.

The mind reels. How can we confront the shocking magnitude of the destruction? How did it happen? Could it happen again? All year round we try our best to teach and inform others and ourselves about the horrors of the Holocaust. We combat ignorance and denial with education and proof. But there is one day in the year when we devote ourselves to the act of zachor, of remembering. We remember those who fought back and those who had no chance - those who survived and those who did not - the world that existed before and the struggle to continue living afterwards.

The Jewish calendar is filled with holidays commemorating the events of joy and sadness that form our collective experience as a people. In the years following World War II, it was felt that the Holocaust was an unparalleled event in the life of the Jewish people that required its own special day to set aside and sanctify. But why this particular day? The Holocaust lasted for several years with countless stories of tragedy and pain. Could any one narrative, or any one day, possibly represent the totality of the devastation?

Various dates were suggested. Some felt a need to link the

*continued on page 14*

## SHA'AR ZAHAV GIFT SHOP



### For All Things



## Judaic



## Judaic

Candlesticks   Mezzuzot

Jewelry   Matzah Covers

Kiddush Cups   Tallit

Kippot   Seder Plates

Gift Certificates Available

Open Fridays, 7:30-8:05 pm or by appointment. Call 861-6932.

Many beautiful new items just arrived !

## Feb. Va'ad Minutes

Ben Bank delivered the d'var Torah, pointing out that God sought only voluntary gifts at the building of the sanctuary. Ben commented that people build a sanctuary in their own hearts, and carry it with them, a phenomenon we see when we enter the Herbst Theater and turn it into a sanctuary.

We commended a proposal for new member outreach advertising, which includes enhancement of our website, signs on our building and a recognizable series of newspaper ads. Advertising will be directed to unaffiliated LGBT Jews and progressive families in the area.

We discussed a detailed plan from the Long-Range Planning Committee. The plan has two phases: getting basic agreement on principles and priorities, and then reflecting them in an operating plan. This is only a piece of a broader long-range planning project, but we cannot wait until everything is finished before taking action. We unanimously voted to support the plan and approved a budget for it.

The rabbi reported on lifecycle events and her satisfying work with teens and the RAC. She described the Gallup conference, where she learned that a healthy congregation is an engaged congregation; a critical question is whether congregants can state what is expected of them as members. She described the new Beit Midrash study program. She reported on the successful domestic partner ritual event, which should be repeated regularly. She described her proposal to the Ritual Committee that she view all drashes from now on before they are delivered. The Rabbi stated that Kadimah has been inspiring, particularly with reference to transgender education in the context of Purim costumes.

President Lisa Katz reported that volunteers have agreed to work on the Nominating, Planning and Congregational Advance Committees. She reported some progress on our parking problem. Finally, she asked us to honor the memory of Eli Weinstein and his vision of membership and volunteer service.

We discussed a proposed policy regarding accepting money on Shabbat, in anticipation of the upcoming Art Shabbaton. After extensive discussion, there was no consensus. We concluded only that there should be a policy that is clear and includes implementation information for committee chairs. Such a proposed policy will be brought to the next Va'ad meeting.

We welcomed four new members and two returning members, and acknowledged the departure of three members. We now have 416 member households.

We unanimously approved the Fundraising Committee's proposal to act as a "gatekeeper" for all congregational

*continued on page 15*



# April 2002-Nisan/Iyyar 5762

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>NO East Bay Services</b>  <b>The East Bay Havarah goes west for the Art Shabbaton on the weekend of April 19-21.</b>  <b>See you there!</b>	<b>1</b> 19 Nissan • 5 pm - JGF Deadline • 7 pm - Beit Midrash	<b>2</b> 20 Nissan • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah	<b>3</b> OFFICE CLOSED NO KADIMAH • 7 pm - JGF Editing
	<b>7</b> 25 Nissan • 4 pm - Healing Service • 6 pm - JGF Layout • 7 pm - New Israeli Voices: Motti Lerner	<b>8</b> Erev Yom HaShoah 26 Nissan • 7 pm - Community Yom HaShoah Observance at Temple Emanu-El	<b>9</b> Yom HaShoah 27 Nissan • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah
<b>14</b> 2 Iyyar • 10:30 am - Parent Education Program	<b>15</b> 3 Iyyar • 7 pm - Torah Trope Class	<b>16</b> Yom HaZikoron 4 Iyyar • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah	<b>17</b> Yom HaAtzmaut • 4 pm - Kadimah
<b>21</b> 9 Iyyar <b>ART SHABBATON</b>	<b>22</b> 10 Iyyar • 7 pm - Torah Trope Class	<b>23</b> 11 Iyyar • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah • 6:30 pm - Israel/Palestine Discussion	<b>24</b> • 4 pm - Kadimah • 7 pm - Outreach Group
<b>28</b> 16 Iyyar Rebuilding Together Work Project	<b>29</b> 17 Iyyar • 7 pm - Torah Trope Class	<b>30</b> 18 Iyyar • 4 pm - East Bay Kadimah	

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need up



DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
21 Nissan	4 22 Nissan	5 23 Nissan	6 Shabbat Shemini (Lev 9:1-11:47) 24 Nissan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Family Dinner</li> <li>• 6:18 pm - Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Michael Sarid and Brian Besser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am - Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am - Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Batya Kalis</li> </ul>
28 Nissan	11 29 Nissan	12 30 Nissan	13 Shabbat Tazri'a-Mezora (Lev 12:1-15:33, Num 28:9-15) 1 Iyyar
S Grounds Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:25 pm - Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Judith Holiber and Nicole Bloom</li> <li>Naming of Chava Orli Novogrodsky-Godt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am - Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am - Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am - Shabbat Services</li> </ul>
5 Iyyar	18 6 Iyyar	19 7 Iyyar	20 Shabbat Ahare Mot-Kedoshim (Lev 16:1, 20:27) 8 Iyyar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 pm - Dialogue with Israeli Consul-General Yossi Amrani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:15 pm - Pre-Shabbat Welcome Dinner</li> <li>• 6:31 pm - Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Steve Weitz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am - Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am - Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Andy Fyne and Leslie Kane</li> <li>Bat Mitzvah of Nora Downs</li> </ul>
		ART SHABBATON	
12 Iyyar	25 13 Iyyar	26 14 Iyyar	27 Shabbat Emor (Lev 21:1-24, 23) 15 Iyyar
Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 pm - Social Action Goes to the Jewish Home</li> <li>• 6:38 pm - Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Patricia Lin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am - Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am - Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Tiela Chalmers and Nora Downs</li> <li>• 10:30 am - Tot Shabbat</li> </ul>

## MAY DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 1, AT 5 PM

### ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to: [kschiller@igc.org](mailto:kschiller@igc.org). No late submissions will be accepted.

### ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or [froslyn@earthlink.net](mailto:froslyn@earthlink.net)). To place a classified ad, call the office.



## President's Column

*continued from page 3*

office and volunteer, and your name will be forwarded to the Committee chairs, Jeff Forman and Prudence Carter.

Whether you would like to assist with Bikkur Cholim and provide assistance to a member of the congregation who is ill, or would like to assist the congregation in fundraising, there is a place for you at CSZ. Please talk to me. If you are interested in learning how to lead services or otherwise getting more involved with our congregation's Ritual Committee, all you need to do is show up for a meeting on the last Thursday of the month. If you are new to the congregation, or have been a member for years, your time would be appreciated in welcoming new members and making long-time members feel more welcome through our Keshet and Membership committees. The Newsletter Committee can always use new members who are willing to help get out our wonderful *Jewish Gaily Forward*. All of the committees of this congregation would welcome your volunteer time and skills. Please talk to me, talk to the committee chairs, talk to other volunteers or our fabulous dedicated staff. You can reach me at 415/821-7746 or email [llkatz1@juno.com](mailto:llkatz1@juno.com) (but please do not call between 8 and 9 pm).

## Congregational Advance

*continued from page 1*

Torah study will be followed by Shacharit services. We'll have lunch together and break out into workshop sessions for the afternoon. Dinner will be at neighborhood restaurants so you'll be back in time for Havdalah, singing and maybe some dancing. We'll convene again Sunday morning for bagels and coffee and a facilitated discussion on love, fears and options. This is a chance to be part of CSZ's long-range planning process, weigh in with your opinions and ideas, shmooze with old friends and make some new ones. Look for more information in the mail and your weekly email updates from CSZ.

## Synagogue Information

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)  
Programming office, 415/575-4961  
Education office, 415/575-4962  
[office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org) (email)  
<http://www.shaarzahav.org> (web)

### CSZ Staff:

*Rabbi*, Camille Shira Angel (x 301)  
- [rabbianangel@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbianangel@shaarzahav.org)  
*Administrator*, Lea Salem (x 308)  
- [lsalem@shaarzahav.org](mailto:lsalem@shaarzahav.org)  
*Program Director*, Dahlia Gross (x 305)  
- [cszdahlia@yahoo.com](mailto:cszdahlia@yahoo.com)  
*Director of Children's and Family Education*  
Sue Bojdak (x 302)  
- [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)  
*Kadimah Head Teacher*,  
- Phyllis Mintzer  
*Administrative Assistant*,  
Sean Holcombe (x 304)  
- [sholcombe@shaarzahav.org](mailto:sholcombe@shaarzahav.org)  
*Family Education Specialist*,  
Jeni Markowitz  
- [familieducator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:familieducator@shaarzahav.org)  
*Rabbi's Assistant*,  
Gabby Volodarsky (x 310)  
- [gabbyv@shaarzahav.org](mailto:gabbyv@shaarzahav.org)

### Officers:

*President*, Lisa Katz  
(415/821-7746 or 709-2605 pager),  
- [llkatz1@juno.com](mailto:llkatz1@juno.com) or  
- [president@shaarzahav.org](mailto:president@shaarzahav.org)  
*Vice President*, Arthur Slepian  
*Vice President*, Jeffrey Sherman  
*Treasurer*, James Carlson  
*Recorder*, Ray Bernstein

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

David Gellman (ex officio)  
Ben Bank  
Howard Herman  
Nancy Kates  
Rose Katz  
Laura Lowe  
Ron Miguel  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Howard Steiermann  
Ami Zusman

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.*

### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman  
*Archives*, open  
*Baby Havurah*, open  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, open  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Building and Grounds*, Beth Sousa  
*Bylaws*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruthy Talansky  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Dor Rishon Brotherhood*, open  
*Dues*, James Carlson, Tiela Chalmers,  
Brian Jersky, Laura Lowe  
*East Bay Havurah*, Ida Kuluk  
and Larry Wexler  
*Endowment Fund*, Diana Buchbinder  
*Finance*, James Carlson  
*Fine Arts*, Barbara Cymrot  
*Fundraising*, Arthur Slepian  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Israel Committee*, Ron Lezell  
and Michal Goralsky  
*Keshet/Connection*, Marianne Balin  
and Geri Kahn  
*Leadership Development*, Paul Cohen  
and Lyssa Friedman  
*Library*, Bernard Schertzer  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold and  
Claudia Bernard  
*Membership Outreach*, Tony Harris  
*Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign*,  
Deborah Udin  
*Music*, Michael Sarid  
*Newsletter*, Karen Schiller  
- [kschiller@igc.org](mailto:kschiller@igc.org)  
*Past Presidents Council*, David Stein  
*Personnel*, Jeff Sherman  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky  
and Marc Wernick  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Allan Gold  
*Ritual*, Howard Steiermann  
*Social Action*, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko,  
Susan Lubeck  
*Singles Havurah*, Marc Wernick  
- [mhwernick@aol.com](mailto:mhwernick@aol.com)  
*Toddler/Pre-school Havurah*, open  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman  
*Web and I.T.*, Geoff Benjamin  
*Women's Havurah*, open

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.**



## Why Is This New Member Different From All Others? *by Marc Wernick*



This month the JGF spoke with new member Steve Mazer (pictured here with his niece and nephew). Steve

comes to us after seven years in Israel followed by two years back in his hometown of New York City. Now he plans to re-establish his Jewish life and community right here in the Bay Area.

Steve grew up in a "99 percent secular" household in Brooklyn. His maternal great-grandmother was an Orthodox "mikvah (ritual bath) lady" on Manhattan's Lower East Side, but his grandmother wasn't interested in keeping the faith, so there wasn't much Jewish tradition left in the family by the time Steve came along. Grandma did insist that Steve have a bar mitzvah, which he says is "very strange, and also very ironic; she had no idea what she was starting."

What she accidentally started was a long, gradual process of return to traditional Judaism that ultimately led Steve, after graduating from college, to move to Jerusalem and settle into life as a Modern Orthodox Zionist. "I lived a normal life," he says, "I studied and I davened (prayed), and I also had an exciting job in operations management at a software company. I did my laundry and had my friends over for dinner." What made his life in Israel so special, he says, was "experiencing the world through religious/observant eyes where every action fit into the context of God and the Jewish people, having an incredibly strong and nurturing community, and developing a deep bond with Israel."

Steve returned to New York after seven years, mostly because it was finally time to come to terms with being gay, which he felt he couldn't do in Jerusalem. A year later he went on his "Coming Out World Tour," visiting friends in Israel to "make sure that the people closest to me knew who I was and where I was in life; I needed that before I could move on." Steve received unconditional love and support from everyone in his Orthodox community, which he says "was a blessing but not a surprise." But

even with acceptance on a person-to-person level, he could not reconcile leading an openly gay life and living in an Orthodox community. "For a long list of reasons, it just wasn't going to work; so I made a hard decision to leave Orthodoxy, and to put most of my Jewish life on hold for awhile." Steve now describes himself as a "non-practicing Orthodox Jew."

After a long hiatus, Steve is now taking his first steps toward reconnecting with Judaism and the Jewish community. While working as a management consultant in New York, Steve got a job offer from one of his clients which gave him an unexpected opportunity to move to the Bay Area. Ironically he was laid off from that job in but he says "It served its purpose; it got me out here, where there is a far better chance of establishing community."

Sha'ar Zahav seemed the obvious starting point for that effort, but when he first visited a year ago, he was scared away. "The service was poles apart from what I was used to, and some of the points in the drash (Torah commentary) didn't exactly match up with my views on Israel." But Steve eventually came back for a second try, and he's glad he did. "I've taken a lot of initiative over the past few months to delve deeper, meet many individuals, and slowly become involved in selected things. In doing so the appealing aspects of this community have become clearer and other parts have become less frustrating and alienating."

Steve has some very definite ideas about what it means to be part of a community. "Membership has its privileges, and it also has its obligations. It took me a while to realize that I have just as much right to this community as anyone who's been here two months or two decades longer, and that I should be able to expect certain things from it. Having that right brings with it responsibility on many different levels: to contribute time, elbow grease and brainpower; to reach out to people; to question the way things are...to name just a few. Building and maintaining community takes work." Steve is happy that he's here to share in that work, and looks forward

to a long and interesting future with Sha'ar Zahav.

We asked Steve the following questions to get to know him a little better:

**Q: What's the most important thing a person can do to help build community?**

"It might be clichéd, but I'd have to say 'be a mensch.' My personal definition of a mensch is someone who genuinely cares about the happiness and well-being of other people, and acts accordingly. This does not mean being a saint, or a pushover with no personal boundaries. It just means making an effort, in small but consistent ways, to help your fellow travelers navigate the obstacle course of life. I may only succeed at it 30 percent of the time, but it's my guiding principle."

**Q: What advice would you give to other new or potential members?**

"Sha'ar Zahav offers up a buffet of challenges, opportunities, frustrations and rewards. There's a lot of substance here, but sometimes you have to dig a little to appreciate it."

**Q: The Haggadah says that we must all see ourselves as if we personally came out of Egypt. What do you think it would have been like if you were there?**

I like to think that if I'd been there to organize the logistics of the Exodus, there would have been plenty of time left to let the dough rise and today we'd be making the seder with marble rye instead of matzah.

Please join me in welcoming Steve to Sha'ar Zahav.

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**CULLUM & SENA**

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 15 YEARS**

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

**45 POLK ST, 2ND FLOOR, SF, CA 94102**  
**415.863.5300 FAX 415.863.8596**

\*CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW SPECIALIST

Divorce, Custody & Support  
 Cohabitation Agreements  
 Wills & Living Trusts  
 Property Agreements & Disputes  
 Same Gender Parenting Agreements & Disputes



# Contributions

## Adult Education Fund

**Patricia Lin**  
-in honor of Siu-Shyong Lin.

**Lonnie Weiss**  
-in memory of Tatia and Zorah  
Allie May French.

## AIDS Fund

**Andy Fyne**  
-in honor of the Sha'ar Zahav  
participants in the Honolulu  
Marathon.

## Bikkur Cholim Fund

**Richard Sinkoff**  
-in memory of Stephen Mistler.

**Patricia Lin**  
-in memory of Jui-Ling Yu.

**Lonnie Weiss**  
-With thanks to Rabbi Angel.

## Chesir-Stein Music Fund

**Batya Kalis**  
-in memory of Eleanor Kalis.

## Children's Education Fund

**Richard Sinkoff**  
-in memory of Alice Bernholz  
Sinkoff.

**Marc Wernick**  
-in memory of Tatia and Zorah  
Allie May French.

**Patricia Lin**  
-in memory of Tatia and Zorah  
Allie May French.

## Library Fund

**Lucy Bernholz**  
-in memory of Alice Bernholz  
Sinkoff.

## Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

**Anonymous**  
-in honor of Freedom to  
Marry Day.

**Alex Ingersoll and David Stein**  
-in honor of Freedom to  
Marry Day.

**Cynthia Navarro and  
Kathryn McHenry**  
-in honor of Freedom to  
Marry Day.

**Allan Berenstein**  
-in memory of Isabel Fishman.

*Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
appreciates your support.  
If you are interested in  
making a contribution,  
please contact our  
Administrator, Lea Salem  
at 861-6932 x308.*

## Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

**Batya Kalis**  
-in memory of Warren Fuerman.

**Allan Berenstein**  
-in memory of Vera Weiss.

**Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs**  
-in memory of Paul Nemrow.

**Patricia Lin**  
-in honor of Mike Rankin.

## Rabbi Angel's Discretionary Fund

**Russell Norman.**

**Irene Ogus**  
-in honor of Michael Sarid.

**Deborah Udin and Lucia Cefalu**  
-in appreciation of Steven Unger.

**Richard Meyerson.**

**Donald and Ylain Mayer**  
-in honor of Rabbi Angel and their  
visit to Sha'ar Zahav.

**James Carlson**  
-in honor of the teens who  
participated in the L'Taken  
Conference.

**Marc Wernick.**

**Deborah Udin**  
-in honor of the Freedom to  
Marry program.

**Nancy Meyer**  
-in appreciation of Ellie Cohen,  
Jim Edlin, Elliot Klein, Eve  
Meyer and Mike Zimmerman.

**Gerald Llamado**  
-in appreciation of Rabbi Angel's  
class LGBT Weddings in a Day  
and the Freedom to Marry  
ceremonies.

*We graciously thank those who  
have sponsored this year's  
Art Shabbaton workshops:*

**Marc Lipschutz.**

**Prudence Carter and  
Marianne Balin.**

**Patricia Lin**  
-in honor of Pei-Hui Lin.

**Sharyn Saslafsky.**

**Mark Gershman.**

**Lisa Katz and Family.**

**Daryl Goldman.**

## General Fund

**Anonymous**  
-in honor of the month of Adar.

**Jonathan Funk**  
-in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

**Nancy Epstein**  
-in memory of Erwin Epstein  
and Marilyn Epstein Levine.

**Lonnie Weiss**  
-in memory of Sarah Chamoff.

**Kenny Altman  
and Barney Ugarte**  
-in memory of Tatia and  
Zorah Allie May French.

**David Blumberg**  
-in honor of Lea Salem and  
Rabbi Angel.

**Mark Troy**  
-in memory of Ephraim Troy.

**Michael Gitt**  
-in memory of Ira Kulkin.

**Rick Crane**  
-in memory of Mike Leven.

**Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem**  
-in memory of Claire and  
Julius Ochs.  
-in memory of Vera Weiss.  
-for the speedy recovery of  
Sharyn Saslafsky.

**Gerry Llamado and  
Arthur Slepian**  
-in honor of Mark Mackler  
and Lyssa Friedman.

**Anonymous.**

**Laura Lowe**  
-in memory of Sarah Pintchuk.

**Marianne Balin**  
-in memory of Naomi Eden.

**Arnie Jackson**  
-in memory of Phyllis Litman.

**Randy Blaustein**  
-in memory of Molly Blaustein.

**Judith Wolfe**  
-in memory of Tatia and Zorah  
Allie May French.  
-in appreciation of Rabbi Angel,  
Judy Schwartz and the  
Bereavement Group.

**Susan Tubbesing and  
Sarah Nathe**  
-For the speedy recovery of  
Sharyn Saslafsky.

**Nancy Meyer**  
-in memory of Henry Lutz Meyer.

**Gilda and Melvin Winiker**  
-in honor of Sha'ar Zahav's  
25th anniversary.

**Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**  
-in memory of Warren Fuerman.  
-in memory of Vera Weiss.

*We graciously thank those who have  
contributed to help subsidize the  
Passover Seder:*

**Batya Kalis.**

**Gerald Rosenstein.**

**Ann Bauman and Kelly  
Thiemann.**

**Anonymous.**

**Mark Gershman and  
Tony Harris.**

**Ann Aptaker.**

**Adin Eichler.**

**Laura Lowe.**

**Janis Portal.**

**Eileen Lynette.**

**Lisa Katz.**

*Contributions in memory of  
Eli Weinstein:*

**Laura Lowe.**

**Marc Wernick.**

**Patricia Lin.**

**Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs.**

**Bernard Gold.**

**Philip Charney.**

**Marcia Goidl.**

**Paul Cohen.**

**Minnie Susman.**

**Michael Goidl.**

**Prudence Carter and  
Marianne Balin.**

**Calvin and Patricia Zippin.**

**Adrian Goldberg.**

**Rob Tat.**

**Mark Mackler.**

**Phyllis Weinstein and  
Richard Siebold.**

**Sam Thal.**

**Batya Kalis.**

**Tony Harris and Mark  
Gershman.**

**Michael Gitt.**

**Walter Leiss.**

**Ron Lezell.**

**Judith Schwartz and Carolyn  
Pines.**

**Ami Zusman.**

**Steven and Florence Nacamulli.**

**Jonathan Pannor.**

**DON'T FORGET!**  
**PLEASE DROP**  
**TOILETRY ITEMS FOR**  
**THOSE IN NEED INTO**  
**THE BIG RED BIN**



## Politics and Spirituality in Yerushalayim *by Riqi Kosovske*

Living in Jerusalem this year is a constant clash of politics and spirituality. Values I took for granted in the Bay Area and especially in the thriving, safe haven of Sha'ar Zahav are brought under the microscope and this examination can sometimes drive a person crazy!

For me nothing is more representative of these issues than Nashot Hakotel - Women of the Wall. Women of the Wall began in 1988 when a diverse group of women from the First International Jewish Feminist Conference decided to hold a women's Torah service at the Western Wall; with Torah and card table in tow, they were met with violent chair-throwing, insults and attacks, but a movement was born. I was lucky enough to be living in Israel that year to participate in the drama. I remember one young yeshiva boy grabbing my prayerbook and yelling, "Reformiot! Lesbiot!" (I decided it was a compliment!).

After a 13-year struggle to gain legal protection to pray, Women of the Wall still pray every Rosh Chodesh (holiday for the New Moon) beginning with Shacharit at the Kotel, followed by shlepping up to a hidden outdoor room in the archeological gardens of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City for a Torah service. The gate to this space has no lock, and every month I come with another volunteer to sweep the area which is used by locals for garbage and bonfires. (Every other designated prayer space in the Old City gets cleaned by the municipality.)



In June of 2000, the Supreme Court of Israel handed down a decision to allow Women of the Wall to pray with Torah and tallit. The euphoria was short-lived as the ultra-Orthodox quickly introduced the Litzman Bill, which would imprison women for seven years for wearing a tallit or reading from the Torah at the Wall. The bill passed its first of three readings at the Knesset and could still pass. For more information see [www.womenofthewall.org](http://www.womenofthewall.org).

One of the most exciting moments of my life was three weeks ago on Rosh Chodesh Adar, when Women of the Wall showed up for their monthly service. The rain poured down. Israeli snipers stood on the roof poised to protect us. As we were davening Hallel, loud explosions in the distance unnerved us. At that moment, a spontaneous decision was made by the board members to stay put and read Torah

on the women's side of the Wall - this was one of the first times in modern history when women read from the Torah at the Kotel!

I can't tell you how exciting it was and how profound - every woman said She-hechyanu and there were tears of joy and exhilaration. I was proud to be among such learned and radiant women, many of whom are my classmates at HUC. In the midst of much darkness and chaos in Israel, our act was a fortress of holiness and celebration. In the words of a prayer written for Women of the Wall by one of its members: "May our song ascend to Your glorious throne in holiness, like the song of Miriam the Prophet and Devorah the Judge, and may it be like sweet incense before You ... Ki mitziyon tetzeh Torah, u'dvar Adonai mirushalayim - For Torah shall go forth from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem."

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

- Judith Klain, Sofia and Michael Klain-Chavez (Welcome Back!)
- Timothy Detmers
- Ed Schultz (Welcome Back!)
- Miranda Petrillo

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## Dreaming of Property

Buying your first home? • Buying commercial or investment property?  
Buying a second vacation home? • Refinancing residential or commercial property?

Irene  
Ogus



Step 1

Arrange Financing  
Pacific Guarantee Mortgage  
415.441.5050 work • 415.441.5047 fax

Deborah  
Udin



Step 2

Find the right property for you.  
Zephyr Real Estate  
415.552.9500 ext. 122



Step 3

Pick up your keys!

Percentage of all commissions to CSZ



## Yom HaShoah *continued from page 7*

day with other times of mourning in Jewish history. An argument was made for Asarah B'Tevet (the tenth of Tevet), already a fast day on the Jewish calendar commemorating the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem leading up to the destruction of the Temple on Tisha B'Av (the ninth of Av). But this day holds no direct relation to the events of the Holocaust. Others, especially those engaged in building the new state of Israel, felt an intense desire for heroes to lionize. The case was made for the 15th of Nissan, the day the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began (April 19, 1943). But this is also the first day of Passover, a time of joy and liberation that was considered inappropriate for a day of mourning.

Eventually, in 1950, a compromise was reached and the 27th of Nissan was selected, a date that falls far enough after the end of Passover, but still within the time span of the War

saw Ghetto uprising. On April 12, 1951, Israel's Knesset proclaimed the 27th of Nissan as Yom HaShoah U'Mered HaGeta'ot (Holocaust and Ghetto Revolt Remembrance Day), later simplified to Yom HaShoah. This year the holiday falls on April 9.

Since Yom HaShoah is a relatively new holiday, there are no set rules or rituals. Yom HaShoah is often observed with candle lighting, speakers, poems, prayers and singing. Some communities light six candles to represent the six million. Holocaust survivors are called upon to speak about their experiences or share in the readings. In Israel, a siren blast is sounded at ten in the morning. The nation comes to a standstill, cars pull over to the side of the road, and everyone stands for several moments in silent remembrance. In our community, we fulfill our special obligation to remember our gay sisters and brothers mur

dered by the Nazis, and the nascent European gay movement targeted for destruction - an event often overlooked in other memorials.

This year, CSZ will observe Yom HaShoah in two ways. On April 5, the Friday evening preceding the holiday, a special Shabbat service will be held. Even though Shabbat is generally a time of joy rather than sadness, this night will afford us an opportunity to come together for an appropriate Holocaust commemoration. Then on Monday, April 8 at 7 pm, CSZ will join many other local congregations for a community-wide observance, hosted by Congregation Emanu-El (at the corner of Arguello and Lake Streets in San Francisco) and co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Holocaust center of Northern California. Please come to both services and share in this important day of remembrance.

## The Art of Giving

*continued from page 2*

pate in this mitzvah. On the other hand, terumah occurs when there is space in people's hearts for additional gifts. The sages knew very well that in certain people's hearts there is never space for additional gifts, while in other people's hearts there is always space. So it is in our community. Every one of us must pay our dues, according, of course, to our circumstances. From this, we get our wonderful community as well as the mitzvah of giving. Each of us may also, if our hearts are open, make gifts to our community in addition to the minimum. This embellishes our community, as well as giving the donors extra pride in their generosity.

We make the dues payments, as well as the gifts, without reference to what we "consume" at CSZ. Our tzedakah is what enables our community to continue to exist and our terumot allow us to enhance our community, and this is how it has been through the ages.

Please consider the difference between tzedakah and terumah, and think about your level of tzedakah as well as what space there is in your heart for terumah.

Litigation  
Estate Planning  
Personal Injury  
Business Law  
Probate  
Real Estate  
Employment  
discrimination

Legal  
Help

Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson & Harris, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 Van Ness  
21st Floor  
San Francisco  
California  
94102



Call David Gellman  
415-621-5600

**Shop at the CSZ Gift Shop.**

**It's an easy way to a contribution to our synagogue.**



# AFIKOMEN

JEWISH BOOKS

GIFTS & ARTS



## Your Jewish Lifestyle Store

3042 Claremont Avenue, (510) 655-1977

## CRITTER FRITTERS



670 Chenery ST.  
off Diamond  
in the Heart of  
Glen Park  
415-239-7387  
Open Everyday  
SAVE 10%!  
Ask About our  
Frequent Buyers  
Club Card

Support Your Local Neighborhood Businesses

*Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy*

## SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL

CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco 1501 Divisadero St. (415) 921-3636

Marin (415) 472-3636

Peninsula (650) 212-3636

Lafayette (925) 962-3636

GENE B. KAUFMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For all your Graphic Art and Illustration needs.

## Feb Va'ad Minutes

*continued from page 7*

fundraising activity. The committee will review proposed publicity and fundraising techniques for CSZ committees and projects. This will help to avoid a barrage of requests on our members. Upcoming major fundraising events include the second Capital Campaign and the 25th Anniversary.

Administrator Lea Salem reported that the Leadership Advance will take place at an ideal and accessible location. We will soon add a new Memorial Board, and another is available for dedication.

Highlights from Melanie Kushnir's Program Director Report include the upcoming Torah Trope classes and great opportunities to co-chair the summertime 100 Dates event or the Social Havurah (recently known as Mishigas). Many thanks to Geoff Benjamin, Caryn Aviv and Larry Kaplun for their work with Mishigas.

Educator Sue Bojdak reported that we have 46 students in Kadimah, and there are likely to be more. Kadimah might add an eighth year to the program, with increased family participation for the B'nei Mitzvah class. The RAC trip to Washington was tremendous, as was the Jewish LGBT panel for Temple Beth El of the Peninsula. Our BJE Family Education Fellowship is concluding, but we will continue family education programming. Watch for the Kadimah Spring Read-a-thon fundraiser.

## A Safe Place For Families and Children to Grieve

No matter how old we are, or where we come from, the death of a loved one changes our lives forever. Death shatters our carefully arranged world. It knocks us off balance. We feel bewildered and very alone.

Thanks to a six-year-old collaboration among a number of San Francisco-based agencies, it's a journey people don't have to face on their own. "Grief and Growing: A Healing Weekend for Families and Individuals" will take place at Camp Tawonga on May 10-12. Created and conducted by the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, Camp Tawonga, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Sinai Memorial Chapel and the Bureau of Jewish Education, the weekend provides an environment of support and safety in which individuals and families, both adults and children, can connect with others and come to terms with the loss.

For more information please visit the Camp Tawonga website at: [www.tawonga.org](http://www.tawonga.org).

Newsletters

Brochures

Spot Illustrations

Web Design

Banner Ads

Etc.



## April

- 1 Merle Malakoff
- 2 Eliana Chalmers Frank  
Jeremy Saz
- 5 Heather Fox
- 6 Ed Schultz
- 7 Eli Agre Baum  
Judy Macks  
Gordon Osser  
Anya Prussin  
Robert Schwartz
- 8 Anna Katz
- 9 Eli Barnes  
Emily Newfield
- 11 Caryn Aviv  
Sydney Klaiman  
Liam Klaiman  
Johanna Klaiman  
Nan Wiener
- 12 Dev Felder Noily  
Susan Leff
- 13 Bonnie Kates  
Avidan Novogrodsky-Godt
- 14 Lyssa Friedman  
Marjorie Hilsenrad  
Jacob Rothman
- 16 Peter Barnes  
Susan Borowitz  
Robert Gordon  
Jeanette Nichols
- 17 Diana Buchbinder  
Eva Konigsberg  
Frank Sieple

## Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg and/or flowers in recent weeks:

- 2/22 Oneg by **Dan Halpern** in memory of Eli Weinstein.
- 2/22 Flowers by **Sara Haber and Beth Sousa** in memory of Eli Weinstein.
- 3/22 Oneg by **Gary Winter** in honor of Evelyn Blumenthal's 80th birthday.

## April

- 18 Donald Fischer  
Naomi Szoke
- 19 Martin Spector
- 20 Helen Cohen  
Aaron Nacamulli
- 22 Lisa Szer
- 23 Sara Haber
- 23 Joshua Muller
- 24 Joyce Garay  
Karen Schiller
- 25 Brian Ellis  
Israel Katz  
Melissa Packer
- 26 Sarah Comerchero  
Andre Fournier
- 27 Adam Barrett  
Tory Weiser
- 30 Lynn Eden  
Judith Klain  
Hank Machtay

## Classifieds

### HEBREW/TORAH TROPE INSTRUCTION:

Private tutoring/groups. Over 100 satisfied customers since 1999! Contact Kenny Altman at 415-379-9783, [kennyaltman@kennyaltman.com](mailto:kennyaltman@kennyaltman.com).

### ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:

Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209

### PSYCHOTHERAPY:

Life transition, grief and loss, HIV/AIDS, substance use, mood disorder, dot-com angst. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#LCS15289), 415-401-9482.

### MENDOCINO GETAWAY:

10% to CSZ. 1BR with ocean view, wood stove, full kitchen, 2 full beds. \$90 + 10% tax/night, \$540/week. Jane 707/937-2648.

### GOT SUN?

Palm Springs vacation rental. 3 bdr home, sleeps 6. Pool w/privacy. Close to downtown. No smoking, no pets, no kids. Available by the day, week or month. Online video tour. CSZ member discount. Contact: [sfojames@pacbell.net](mailto:sfojames@pacbell.net).

## Naches

To **Diana Buchbinder** on her new position as Director of Employee and Labor Relations for San Francisco Muni.

To **Geoff Benjamin** on his new job as Executive Director of the Blind Babies Foundation.

To **Lisa Hamburger** on her promotion to Director of Housing and Community Development for the City of East Palo Alto.

To **Nol Simonse** on his new employment dancing for choreographer Stephen Pelton. Look for him at ODC in May!

To **Mark Mackler** on his new job as Teen Services Librarian for the San Francisco Public Library.

To **Judy Macks** for her new position with Integrated Mortgage Capital as a mortgage banker.

To **Stephanie Godt, Ellen Novogrodsky and big brother Avidan** on the birth of Chava Orli Novogrodsky-Godt.

## Condolences

**Roslyn Fuerman**, on the death of her father, Warren Fuerman.

**Phyllis and George Mintzer**, on the death of their friend, Lillian Meyer.

**Lonnie Weiss**, on the death of her mother, Vera Weiss.

**Andy Fyne**, on the death of his uncle, Gerald Sachs.

## April Anniversaries

- 4 Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher
- 10 Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz
- 21 Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick
- 29 Barbara Leff and Arlene Singer
- 30 Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart